

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Volume XX-08

Number 25

July 21, 2008



NASA Names Strain New Goddard Space Flight Center Director

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin has announced that Rob Strain will be the next center director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Strain is currently the head of the Space Department at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Md. He will assume his duties as center director on August 4.



Rob Strain

Goddard Space Flight Center is a major U.S. laboratory for developing and operating unmanned scientific spacecraft. Goddard manages many of NASA's Earth observation, astronomy and space physics missions. Goddard includes several other NASA installations, most significantly the Wallops Flight Facility and the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York.

"My association with Rob Strain spans years of shared experiences in both industry and at the Applied Physics Laboratory," said Griffin. "He is one of the finest managers I know, and complements those talents with equally impressive 'people skills' and an unbending sense of personal

integrity. I am truly looking forward to his addition to a superbly talented NASA management team."

Strain previously served as the associate department head and assistant department head for operations at the Applied Physics Lab's Space Division. Prior to his work at the Applied Physics Lab, Strain held various executive positions with Axiom Corporation, Orbital Sciences Corporation and Fairchild Space and Defense Company.

Hill is New EOPO Associate Chief

Veronica R. Hill, Esq. is the new Associate Chief of the Equal Opportunity Programs Office at Goddard Space Flight Center.

Hill previously served as an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) manager in the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity at NASA Headquarters.

From 2003 - 2007, Hill served as an EEO manager in the Discrimination Complaints Division, where she was responsible for the administrative processing and adjudication of formal EEO complaints filed against the Agency.

From 2007 - 2008, Hill worked in the Program Planning and Evaluation Division, where she was responsible for developing

and implementing an Agency-wide program to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's EEO programs.

Prior to joining the NASA family, Hill spent over 10 years providing legal advice, guidance and problem solving to a wide range of clientele on employment law and human resource matters.

Hill has Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in political science from Duke University, and a law degree from Howard University School of Law.

Hill also will serve as the Center's Federal Women's Program Manager as well as the EEO Complaints Manager.

Wallops Shorts

Back Home

The successful ARCTAS Summer 2008 campaign, operating from Cold Lake, Canada, concluded with the P-3 aircraft and team's return to Wallops on July 12. Download of data from the aircraft has been completed and the scientists will begin the task of data analysis.

In the News



CSBF Photo

An article titled, "From the Desert to the Edge of Space", in the July 17 edition of *Nature News*, reports on a "new sort of balloon...which [Mark] Cobble and his crew from NASA's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility (CSBF)" are testing. These balloons are used to lift space science experiments upwards of 40 kilometers into the air. The new "super-pressure" balloons are designed to have constant volume instead of constant pressure, allowing them to potentially stay up for over 100 days.

According to the article, "In terms of science per dollar, super-pressure balloons might well outperform satellites for a far wider range of missions than the current technology allows." Recent tests at Fort Sumner municipal airport in New Mexico are helping to "prove the technology," with more tests with larger balloons and longer durations throughout the year. If the tests are successful, "Routine flights could start in 2011."

To view the article visit: <http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080716/pdf/454270a.pdf>

Upgrades to Traffic Signs



Photo by Ralph Wooten

Martin Watkinson, Noel Mendoza, Jason Rossin, and Tommy Chance prepare to paint lines on the front gate parking lot.

You may have noticed that workers are replacing traffic signs and pavement markings on the streets at Wallops. It's part of an effort to standardize the signs and make them more visible to drivers and pedestrians.

"Looking at the signs on the Facility, we noticed that we were apparently not observing standards. Sign posts were made of different materials, and the signs were at different heights and sizes with varying lettering," said Jim West, WICC program manager.

In a presentation to the NASA Wallops Executive Safety and Health Council, West noted that standardizing the signs would make it easier for drivers and pedestrians to comply with regulations conveyed by the signs, thus improving traffic safety. In addition, many of the markings on the streets had become faded and needed to be improved.

The Council adopted the recommendation to upgrade and standardize the signs and markings across the Facility.

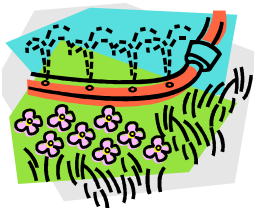
West said that upgrades on the Main Base and Island causeway should be completed by October 2008 with the balance of work to be completed by the spring of 2009.

Time to Water

The final phase of landscaping is being completed between Buildings E-107 and E-109.

For the next 6 – 8 weeks a rotating sprinkling system will operate for up to 30 minutes several times during the day and night.

Although the new sidewalks are completed, be cautious of water from the sprinklers.



Bright orange barricades have been installed to cover the sprinkler pipes running across the sidewalks. Exercise caution if you choose to use these sidewalks.

"I strive for the best and I do the possible"

..... Lyndon B. Johnson

On the Road

Dave Gregory and Debbie Fairbrother, NASA Balloon Program Office, and Henry Cathey, New Mexico State University, presented papers at the 37th Annual Committee on Space Research Conference, July 13-20, in Montreal, Canada.

Alex Malone, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) co-op from Penn State University, recently spoke to nine 5th grade students at the Arlington (Va.) Traditional School. The students meet four hours a day for three weeks to learn about the moon, notably getting to and maintaining a long term human presence there.

"EQ and You"

Brown Bag Lunch

July 23

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Bldg. E-2, Williamsburg Room

Dr. Darrell Mullins, Department Chair and Association Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts, Salisbury University, will address the relationship of emotional intelligence and nonverbal communication.

Sponsored by the Women of Wallops, Federal Women's Program Professional Development Subcommittee. For further information contact Kathryn Redden at x4606.

Goddard Gets on iTunes

Looking for a fun way to keep up with all the cool science and engineering breakthroughs that are taking place at Goddard?

The official NASA Goddard Shorts podcast series is now available for free from the iTunes Store.

With so many exciting projects going on, this new video podcast gives us a chance to show the world (and each other) what we're up to.

To subscribe to the podcast, go to the Goddard Shorts home page: <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/iTunes>.

Correction: July 14 Edition, Wallops Shorts

"The tapered IRMA recovery system weighed 750 pounds."

Correction: The 750 lb IRMA recovery system does not actually weigh 750 lbs. This is the rating for the system (capable of 750 lb recovery weight).

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Public Affairs Office, x1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found at: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news/newsletters.html>

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